

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2008

# **HOUSE BILL 2834**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 5-221, 5-222 AND 5-225, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE ARIZONA STATE BOXING COMMISSION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:  
2       Section 1. Section 5-221, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4       5-221. Definitions

5       In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

6       1. "Boxing" means the act of attack and defense with the fists, using  
7 padded gloves, that is practiced as a sport. Where applicable, boxing  
8 includes ~~kick boxing~~ KICKBOXING.

9       2. "Commission" means the Arizona state boxing commission.

10      3. "Contest" means any boxing contest, match or exhibition.

11      4. "Department" means the Arizona department of racing.

12      5. "Director" means the director of the Arizona department of racing.

13      6. "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
14 COMMISSION.

15      6. 7. "~~Kick boxing~~ KICKBOXING" means a form of boxing in which blows  
16 are delivered with any part of the arm below the shoulder, including the  
17 hand, and any part of the leg below the hip, including the foot.

18      7. ~~"Nontraditional fighting contest" means any competition between two  
19 or more persons, with or without gloves, who use any combination of fighting  
20 skills, including boxing, wrestling, hitting, kicking, martial arts and other  
21 combative full contact techniques. Nontraditional fighting contests include  
22 ultimate fighting, extreme fighting and shoot fighting but do not include  
23 kick boxing or any recognized martial arts competition.~~

24      8. "Professional" means any person who competes for any money prize or  
25 a prize that exceeds the value of thirty-five dollars or teaches or pursues  
26 or assists in the practice of boxing as a means of obtaining a livelihood or  
27 pecuniary gain.

28      9. ~~"Secretary" means the executive secretary of the commission.~~

29      10. 9. "Tough man contest" means any boxing match consisting of one  
30 minute rounds, between two or more persons who use their hands, wearing  
31 padded gloves that weigh not less than twelve ounces, or their feet, or both,  
32 in any manner. Tough man contest does not include ~~kick boxing~~ KICKBOXING or  
33 any recognized martial arts competition.

34      10. "UNARMED COMBAT" MEANS ANY FORM OF COMPETITION, OTHER THAN BOXING  
35 AND KICKBOXING, IN WHICH BLOWS ARE DELIVERED.

36       Sec. 2. Section 5-222, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

37       5-222. Application of this chapter; definition

38       This chapter does not apply to any amateur boxing contest conducted by  
39 or participated in by the following institutions or organizations:

40       1. Any school, community college, college or university or an  
41 association or organization composed exclusively of schools, community  
42 colleges, colleges or universities when each contestant is a student enrolled  
43 in a school, community college, college or university. As used in this  
44 section, "school, community college, college or university" means every

1 school, community college, college or university and every other school,  
2 community college, college or university determined by the state board of  
3 education, community college districts as defined in section 15-1401 or the  
4 Arizona board of regents to be maintained primarily for the giving of general  
5 academic education.

6       2. A government unit or agency of the United States or this state and  
7 its subdivisions.

8       3. A nonprofit interstate association or intrastate association in  
9 this state which has standards and regulations for the physical safety of the  
10 participants at least equal to the requirements of this chapter, including  
11 such bona fide amateur associations or organizations.

12       4. A fraternal benefit society as defined in section 20-861.

13       5. Any bona fide private school whose primary purpose is instruction  
14 in the martial arts, provided that the contests held in conjunction with such  
15 instruction are amateur **AND PROVIDED THAT AN ADMISSION FEE IS NOT CHARGED FOR**  
**ATTENDANCE.**

16       Sec. 3. Section 5-225, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

17       5-225. Regulation of boxing contests, tough man contests and  
18                   unarmed combat

19       A. All boxing contests are subject to the provisions of this  
20 chapter. Every contestant in a boxing contest shall wear padded gloves that  
21 weigh at least eight ounces. The commission shall for every contest:

22       1. Direct a deputy to be present.

23       2. Direct the deputy to make a written report.

24       B. All tough man contests, including amateur tough man contests, are  
25 subject to the provisions of this chapter. Every contestant in a tough man  
26 contest shall wear padded gloves that weigh at least twelve ounces.

27       C. ~~All nontraditional fighting contests~~ UNARMED COMBAT, including  
28 amateur ~~nontraditional fighting contests~~ UNARMED COMBAT, ~~are~~ IS subject to  
29 the provisions of this chapter. Contestants in ~~nontraditional fighting~~  
30 ~~contests~~ UNARMED COMBAT shall not strike other contestants in the spinal  
31 column or in the back of the head. Contestants shall not strike with their  
32 knees or elbows unless specified by rule. THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH A FEE  
33 FOR UNARMED COMBAT EVENTS IN AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION. IN  
34 DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY CONSIDER  
35 FACTORS INCLUDING THE AMOUNT OF TIME LIKELY TO BE EXPENDED IN PROCESSING THE  
36 EVENT APPLICATION AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE APPLICATION. MONIES THAT ARE  
37 DERIVED FROM THE FEES CHARGED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE AVAILABLE  
38 TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATION OF UNARMED COMBAT,  
39 AND THOSE MONIES ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 35-190 RELATING TO  
40 LAPSING OF APPROPRIATIONS. WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
41 THIS AMENDMENT TO THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL BEGIN USING RULES FOR  
42 UNARMED COMBAT THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE MIXED MARTIAL ARTS UNIFIED RULES  
43 OF CONDUCT ADOPTED BY THE NEW JERSEY STATE ATHLETIC CONTROL BOARD, WHICH

1 SHALL BE USED UNTIL THE ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS APPROVES  
2 STANDARDIZED RULES THAT ARE IMPLEMENTED IN STATES THAT USE RULES IDENTICAL OR  
3 SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE NEW JERSEY STATE ATHLETIC  
4 CONTROL BOARD. NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION PREVENTS A PROMOTER OF AN UNARMED  
5 COMBAT EVENT IN THIS STATE FROM PROHIBITING SPECIFIC TYPES OF CONDUCT FOR  
6 THAT PARTICULAR EVENT THAT ARE ALLOWED UNDER THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE NEW  
7 JERSEY STATE ATHLETIC CONTROL BOARD, THE ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS OR  
8 THE ARIZONA STATE BOXING COMMISSION.